

FIRST PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

WisDOT and CH2M HILL will host the first public information meeting on **Tuesday, June 29, 1999, at the St. Columba Church (McLaughlin Hall), 106 WIS 164 (County Q/164 intersection)**. The entrance to McLaughlin Hall is on the north side of the building. The open-house meeting will run from 4 to 8 p.m. You may stop in any time between these hours. The project team will make brief presentations at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to give you a chance to visit with the study team, obtain information on the scope of the study, and share your ideas/concerns that should be considered in developing and refining the alternatives.

Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has begun an environmental and engineering study to evaluate alternatives for reconstructing WIS 164 (County J) between Capitol Drive in Waukesha County and WIS 175 in Washington County (see map insert). WisDOT has hired CH2M HILL, a Milwaukee engineering firm, to assist with the study. This is the first in a series of newsletters and other public involvement activities aimed at keeping you informed and obtaining your input as the study progresses.

Why the Study is Being Done?

The reconstruction study is the next step in implementing future highway improvements recommended through the regional transportation planning process. The *2020 Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin* characterizes the WIS 164 (County J) corridor as a major north-south arterial serving regional mobility needs for a high volume of through and local traffic. Traffic on some segments is already above two-lane thresholds for safe and efficient travel. Traffic is expected to increase by 50 percent or more during the next 20 years. New development continues to occur throughout the corridor, increasing traffic demand. The existing highway has steep hills, blind intersections, and numerous access points, all of which contribute to a poor operational level of service and highway user safety concerns.

What the Study Includes?

The focus of the study is widening WIS 164 (County J) to a four-lane roadway. Study tasks include development and evaluation of alternatives and their impacts; preparation of an environmental document; coordination with local officials, and state and federal review agencies; and public involvement activities. The final study products will include

an engineering plan and right-of-way plat for the Capitol Drive to County VV segment (Waukesha County), and concept plans for the remainder of the corridor between County VV and County 175. Depending on funding availability, the Capitol Drive to County VV segment is targeted for construction beginning in 2004. A construction time frame has not been established for the County VV to County 175 segment, but the concept plans will allow preserving the necessary right-of-way for future transportation improvements. County J has already become WIS 164 north of Capitol Drive following completion of jurisdictional transfer agreements between WisDOT and Waukesha and Washington Counties. The segment south of Capitol Drive will become WIS 164 following reconstruction of that segment sometime before 2004. Waukesha County is the lead agency for the project south of Capitol Drive.

Community Involvement

There will be regular opportunities for you to keep informed about the study and provide your input. Two additional public information meetings will be held during the study. As was done for this first public meeting, future public information meetings will be announced in the Lake Country Reporter, Waukesha Freeman, Hartford Times Press, and the Waukesha and Washington County editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Newsletters will be mailed to those on the project mailing list announcing the public information meeting.

CH2M HILL has established a toll-free information line to allow area residents and others interested in the study to contact the project team. CH2M HILL staff can be reached at 1-877-860-2426. The project team is also developing a project website. The website, which will allow users to view project exhibits and provide comments to the project team, should be operational later this summer. Notice of the site's



availability will be made when the site is ready. The project team is also available to meet with individual property owners, homeowners associations, and local units of government. Please contact us via the toll-free phone number if you would like to arrange a meeting.

The project team is establishing a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to ensure that the study considers the views of local interests. The PAC, which will meet at least four times throughout the study, will include representatives from local units of government, WisDOT, review agencies, property owners along WIS 164, and CH2M HILL. The PAC list will be available at the next public meeting and will be posted on the project website.

Study Schedule

The study began in May 1999 and will continue through May 2001. The major milestones include the following:

- Gather data and first public information meeting -May through June 1999
- Develop and evaluate preliminary alternatives -June through September 1999
- Second public information meeting - October 1999
- Environmental document available for agency and public review - January 2000
- Select recommended alternative and hold third public meeting - February 2000
- Final environmental document - March 2000
- Engineering plans and right-of-way plat for Capitol Drive to Highway VV segment - May 2001
- Concept plans for County VV to County 175 segment - May 2001

Project Contacts

If you have any questions regarding this study, you may contact



one of the following study team members:



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Do you know someone who may be interested in this study?
We hope you will let them know, and share this newsletter.